

Committee have urged those involved in NF research to foster collaborative efforts between and among the various initiatives at the NIH under whose purview these manifestations fall. Peter Bellermaun, President of the National NF Foundation has informed me that these efforts are taking place and that "Cross-Institute" activities are a reality.

NF has the attention at the highest level of the NIH beginning with the Director Dr. Varmus. It extends to the Institute heads, especially Dr. Gerald Fischbach at NINDS and to Dr. Richard Klausner at the National Cancer Institute. These progressive officers work at continuing the cross-institute efforts, participate in scientific meetings of NF, and advise other funding agencies to avoid duplication of funding.

NF has been a success story for research for all who have invested in it. True success will, however, come only when a cure is found and real people like my granddaughter can look forward to happy lives, free of NF's terrible consequences. We now have to go the next hard miles. Researchers now stand ready to translate basic scientific knowledge into clinical application. The next agenda includes continued work in basic research, starting comprehensive natural history studies for NF and beginning the all important process of clinical trials with innovative approaches. We all pray that this will lead to an effective treatment for NF.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not thank my Congressman Fred Upton and his staff person Jane Williams for their very special help and support. We are also very appreciative of the longtime support Congressman Murtha has given NF funding. And a special thanks to you, Chairman Porter, who in 1995 took time from your busy schedule to meet personally with Peter Bellermaun and me so that we could tell you of the urgent need for accelerated NF funding. Your ongoing support since then has been tremendously helpful. To the members of this Committee who have supported us in this critical effort, we also offer another thank you.

#### COMMENDING BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

#### HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 1999*

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the efforts of Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, in their unending journey to better relations around the world. Brigham Young University in Provo, UT sends various groups from their Performing Arts department throughout the world to better the University's ties, which in turn improves U.S. foreign relations.

On May 18th, BYU's Young Ambassadors, Ballroom Dance team, and Folk Dance Ensemble returned from a tour of the South Pacific commemorating the 20th anniversary of their first visit to China.

Throughout the past twenty years, BYU has established a name for itself in China and is currently very well regarded by its people. I am very proud to represent the students and faculty members of BYU. They are a model to us all as we work to create a global society of culture, heritage and peace.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC APPEALS PARITY ACT

#### HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 1999*

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to introduce the Public Appeals Parity Act of 1999. This Act is needed so that the general public, who have legitimate interests in federal land management decisions, has an avenue to appeal certain decisions made by the National Park Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Currently, no such appeals system exists within these two federal agencies and the public's only recourse for relief is through the court system.

The idea of an internal agency appeal system is not new. Right now, two other primary federal land management agencies, the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have an administrative process whereby the public can appeal certain decisions in regard to land management decisions made by these agencies. This Act would initiate a similar administrative appeal process for the public in regard to decisions made by the National Park Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The Secretary of the Interior would be directed to establish procedures for an appeals process for the Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service which will afford the public, prior to the implementation of the project, activity, or plan, an opportunity to appeal decisions made by these agencies in regard to land and resource management decisions which occur in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The regulations developed by the Secretary of the Interior per this Act would mirror those already established for the U.S. Forest Service and would include such things as the type of decisions that may be appealed, who may appeal decisions, the procedures that apply to appealing the decision, and other important steps which the public could follow.

This Act is fair, is not precedent setting, and levels the playing field so that the public has an avenue to appeal decisions made by federal agencies rather than to take them to court. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support the Public Appeals Parity Act of 1999.

#### BRETT SHARPE NAMED ALL-AMERICAN SCHOLAR AND UNITED STATES NATIONAL AWARD IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend an outstanding Colorado high school student and leader. This Spring, Brett Sharpe of Haxtun High School in Haxtun, Colorado, was named an All-American Scholar and a United States National Award in Leadership and Service.

The United States Achievement Academy presents the All-American Scholar Award to those students demonstrating exceptional aca-

demic discipline. Scholars must receive a grade-point average of 3.3 or higher and be selected by a school instructor or counselor.

The National Award in Leadership and Service is presented only to a select group of students nationwide. Recipients must demonstrate outstanding scholastics, leadership and student service throughout their high school years.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Brett Sharpe for his truly remarkable scholastic, service, and leadership abilities. With confidence, I look forward to his future contributions in America.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OF THE GREENPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 1999*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed chamber to pay tribute to three members of the Star Hose Co. #3 of the Greenport Fire Department and to join the volunteer firefighters, emergency medical personnel and grateful people of this Long Island community as they celebrate these brave men for their 50 years of volunteer service.

I would like to tell my colleagues about Greenport, a special place where neighbors look out for neighbors and every resident possesses a special pride in their hometown. In a service that exemplifies selfless heroism, the men and women of the Greenport Fire Department perform above and beyond the call of duty each and every day. Compensated only by the satisfaction that their efforts save lives and protect property, these volunteers have answered every alarm for over 50 years. I am proud and honored to count these brave firefighters among my friends and neighbors.

Moreover, I am proud to join with the Greenport Fire Department in honoring these members for their faithful service. These men have answered the siren's call whenever a fire or other peril threatened a member of the Greenport community. Henry Clarke, Jr. has served for 58 years as 2nd Lt., 1st Lt. and Captain from April 1952 to March 1952. Nelson Beebe has served for 52 years as 2nd Lt., 1st Lt. and Captain from April 1978 to March 1980. Jake Sherwood has served for 50 years as 2nd Lt., 1st Lt. and Captain from April 1958 to March 1960. Time and again these brave men joined their comrades as they hastened to the scene, placing themselves in harm's way to aid another human being in danger, regardless of whether it be a friend, neighbor or stranger.

Demonstrating that true heroes are created over a lifetime of selfless acts and service to their God, family and country, these brave men of the Greenport Fire Department are perfect role models for every volunteer firefighter who will come after them. They truly reflect the outstanding work of the Greenport Fire Department and its commitment to training and service that keep their neighbors, friends and even their own children safe and secure. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting the courageous, devoted volunteers of the Greenport Fire Department.

May God keep them safe as they have worked to keep safe the Greenport community.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MICHIGAN  
STATE TROOPER CHARLIE GROSS

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 1999*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I like to pay special tribute today to Detective Sergeant Charlie Gross, who is retiring after a career of law enforcement with the Michigan State Police.

As you may know, Mr. Speaker, I served as a law enforcement officer. In point of fact, I served with Charlie in a variety of posts, while our careers seem to follow a parallel track.

In one sense, my own law enforcement career ended when I was injured in the line of duty and retired in 1984. In a deeper sense, I however, the friendships that form among law enforcement officers are bonds that survive changes in careers and changes in address. In that regard, when I founded the Law Enforcement Caucus in my freshman year in Congress, I was not only giving my many comrades in law enforcement a voice in Washington, but I was also giving myself a professional reason to maintain these strong ties to many good friends and providing myself with an opportunity to forge new friendships with dedicated people in law enforcement.

Now, one of these old friends is retiring after a 27 year career. The unit D/Sgt. Gross will actually leave is a Michigan State Police tactical drug unit, the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team, known as UPSET.

Charlie was one of the first troopers I met on the road in 1974, and we seemed to stay on the same career road. When I was transferred to Lansing, Charlie was in Lansing. When I went back to the Upper Peninsula, Charlie went to the Upper Peninsula. As he gained knowledge and experience, Charlie demonstrated a wide array of skills, including sharing his knowledge with other troopers by teaching traffic safety, the proper use of the Breathalyzer, and other investigative subjects.

Last week here in Washington we spotlighted U.S. law enforcement in a number of ways. We paid special tribute to fallen officers, and we celebrated funding 100,000 new police officers under the Community Policing program.

This Saturday, the co-workers of Charlie Gross will celebrate one man's career in law enforcement. I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in wishing the best in retirement for this dedicated public servant.

THE KOSOVO EMERGENCY  
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 1999*

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address last night's vote on the so-called "emergency" supplemental appropriations bill, H.R. 1141.

As a member of the budget committee, and concerned member of this body, I am appalled

not only at the amount of pork crammed into the bill, but especially by the anti-environmental riders placed on the bill.

One of these riders is specifically targeted at helping the mining industry and will delay strengthening of regulations that would safeguard against mining companies walking away from the cleanup costs associated with mining.

Yet another special interest rider prevents the Minerals Management Service from issuing rules on the value of crude oil.

This will allow major oil companies to underpay royalties from drilling on public lands—estimated to cost taxpayers between \$66 to \$100 million per year.

Yet another rider would weaken the already egregious 1872 mining law, allowing a previously denied waiver for the development of the "Crown Jewel" mine in my neighboring state of Washington.

For these reasons, I encourage the President to veto this environmentally destructive bill, sending a message to this body and the American people that our precious natural resources will not take a back seat to pork and special interests groups.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH R.  
QUINN

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 1999*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on May 20, 1999, family and friends will gather to honor and pay tribute to Joseph R. Quinn, who served as the Chairman of the Smithtown Democratic Committee for 22 years, until his retirement last September.

Joe Quinn, known for his wit, incredible memory for names, love of Irish music, his wonderful family and loyalty to friends, has distinguished himself throughout his private and political life.

In 1959, the then-younger, dark-haired, father of five, Joseph R. Quinn, joined the Suffolk County Democratic Committee and began his sojourn into local politics. At the same time, this Iona College graduate began his career as a teacher in the Middle Country School District, where he went on to become the principal of the unique school without walls, New Lane Elementary School. Joe retired from the Middle Country School District in 1988 after 28 years of outstanding career in education.

Joe Quinn's dedication and loyalty to the Democratic Party is unsurpassed. Joe often boasts of the 22 officials that were elected under his leadership, "one for every year as leader." He should take pride in that accomplishment, as those victories symbolized his commitment to the ideals of the Democratic Party and of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, on May 20, the Suffolk County Democratic Committee will honor and pay tribute to Joseph Quinn at a gala dinner. I call on all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now as we recognize and acclaim Joseph R. Quinn for his outstanding leadership and commitment to the Smithtown Democratic Committee, and to the people of Smithtown, of Suffolk County, and of New York State.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HOUSE RESOLUTION

**HON. JAMES V. HANSEN**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 1999*

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to introduce this House resolution which will effectively help our National Park System and all those who visit and enjoy these parks. Over the past few years the National Park Service has repeatedly reported a backlog of projects necessary to maintain structures, roads, and infrastructure in many of our national parks. In fact, the National Park Service has asserted that the cost of these projects will be about 6 billion dollars. This resolution would urge the National Park Service to take advantage of support services offered by the Department of Defense, which has the authority to provide support and services to Federal entities, including the National Park Service.

A program called the Civil-Military Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training Program offers real world training opportunities to meet the readiness requirements of military units and individuals while benefiting local communities. This service, provided by the Department of Defense, includes equipment and other assistance which has the potential to greatly reduce the backlog of projects identified by the National Park Service. In short, this resolution will direct one federal department to help another and will benefit the American taxpayer who has been picking up the tab.

This is a good idea and a worthy resolution and I urge all my colleagues to support this House resolution.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL PRINCIPAL  
LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend an outstanding Colorado high school student and leader. This Spring, Leah Nein of Julesburg High School, in Julesburg, Colorado, received the National Principal Leadership Award.

Each year, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and Herff Jones Inc. presents the National Principal Leadership Award to 150 students nationwide. Recipients must demonstrate outstanding scholastics, leadership and student service throughout their high school years. As an added bonus, a \$1,000 college scholarship is provided to help these students achieve their higher education goals.

Among some of her accomplishments, Leah was class president three out of her four high school years, captained the volleyball team, and a Girls State Delegate. She has also received the Colorado School of Mines "Medal of Accomplishment in Math and Science" and the University of Colorado "Outstanding Junior Award." This Fall, Leah plans to attend Colorado State University and major in Accounting.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Leah Nein and all Principal Leadership